





TO ADVERTISERS.

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JOB PRINTING.

Every book and Job Printing of every description neatly executed. Terms, cash on delivery of the work.

In common with the majority of the inhabitants of Vancouver Island, we have felt considerable interest in the investigation now under prosecution before the Crown Lands Committee. Not indeed in the personalities which we regret to notice are from time to time dragged into the evidence, but in the general tenor and tenor of the examination, which it appears to us will not be unlikely to throw some light on questions which in all circles have been for some time past, to say the least of it, vexed. Considerable importance, and not an inconsiderable value attaches to the Crown Lands of this Island, and inasmuch as the colony in return for cession, if we may so term it, of the lands, are asked to provide for a civil list of £2000, it is unquestionably the bounden duty of the representatives of the people in parliament assembled, to inquire most narrowly into the extent, disposition, and position of these lands.

An idea has been allowed to gain ground in the minds of a portion of the community, that the Hudson Bay Company, in the matter of these Crown Lands, have not proved faithful to their trust as the controlling power in this Island for a series of years. Some 20 or 30 years ago, when the issue was first tried before the Committee, it was between the Company and the people, and that the prize to be gained for the latter, is to be wrested from the Company in the shape of Crown Lands illegally retained or disposed of by them. That this is an unfair view of the question we do not care to deny. It is not necessary to the proof of the efficiency and utility of the Committee that there should be any such solution to the problem. Until the Committee have closed their labors it is impossible to form any opinion as to the merits of the whole case, but it is most certainly very much to the interest of the community that the investigation should be thorough and searching, and we can conceive nothing more detrimental to the interests of the Company than any keeping back or concealment of the real state of the facts. Things have gone too far to allow of the truth being suppressed, and if the Hudson Bay Company value their credit with the world at large, they will court the most open and searching enquiry into every transaction that has taken place with regard to Crown Lands since the colony was first established; accusations have been made and, publicly pressed that can only be refuted by direct statements which must be full, public, and explicit. So far as the evidence which has been already taken goes, in its incomplete state, it is hardly fair to express any opinion, but we must confess that it discloses to say the least of it a most unsatisfactory state of affairs as regards the administration of the public departments in this Colony. It is essential to the due and proper conduct of public business that it should be carried on with the greatest regularity and exactness. It is not enough that the officials in Government employment should be able to refute charges which are preferred against them, but it is necessary to guard carefully against the danger of any such charges being made, and when refutation becomes needful it must be made by thorough and complete explanation of the whole circumstances of the particular case in question. At present, the Crown rests under the unpleasant stigma of charges having been preferred against an absent gentleman holding a high official appointment. It is, therefore not only essential to the due conduct of business, but also a point of honor with the Land Office that the fullest explanation should be afforded of every transaction respecting the sale of any Crown lands upon which any doubt or shade may rest. And the Committee will not fairly perform their duty unless they thoroughly inquire into the matter. There are, we believe, several more witnesses to be examined, whose evidence may probably be expected to throw more light upon the disposition of Crown Lands generally, and it is only by going very carefully and minutely through every particle of evidence that can be fairly taken on these matters that the Committee can hope to arrive at a right conclusion. Much has been said outside of the Committee room, of the nature of the evidence and the manner in which questions are propounded by the members. Now it would appear to us to be most unfair to cavil at the manner in which individual members conduct the examination of the different witnesses. We can only assume that one and all of the members of that Committee who attend in their places, are endeavoring in the due discharge of their duty to arrive at the truth; and if they happen to introduce a little irrelevant matter, it is better than omitting any really useful evidence. The examination has so far been conducted at considerable inconvenience to some of the members, who have devoted a great portion of their time to this, their public duty, and we cannot but say in justice to those gentlemen that they deserve well of their constituencies. There are some members who have not thought it worth their while to attend the meetings of the Committee regularly. How they will compare with those who have borne the brunt and labor of battle when the time comes for another election, the event will show. In the mean time we can only press upon the public, and the House of Assembly, the importance of prosecuting the inquiries until the whole truth shall be elicited, no matter what the consequences may be to any individuals, companies, associations or cliques.

THE BRITISH COLONIST

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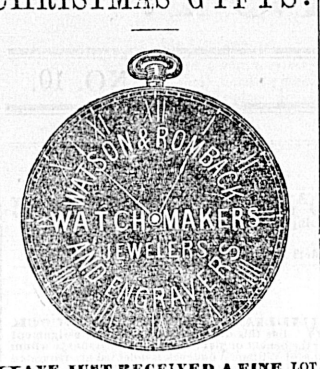
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TO BE GIVEN AT GYMNASIUM HALL,

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On Friday Evening, Dec. 25th.

COMMITTEE:

Aaron Johnson, K. McCaskill, P. Kline, E. Stone

L. ENSIGN, Floor Manager.

TICKETS, Supper included, 5s; to be had of the Committee or at the door.

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(Next door to Bailey's Bell House.)

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The Metropolitan

LODGING HOUSE,

YATES STREET,

HAS JUST BEEN NEWLY FUR-

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LODGINGS PER WEEK - - From \$1 to \$2.50

do do NIGHT - - 25 to 50 cts. a night

The Proprietor, wishing to retire, will either sell or will lease the whole House, and offers

FOR SALE

Besides the above,

50 Bedsteads, Spring, Pull and Straw

Mattresses, Double and Single

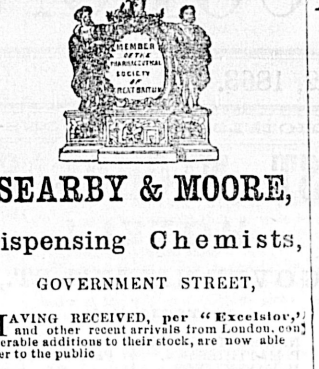
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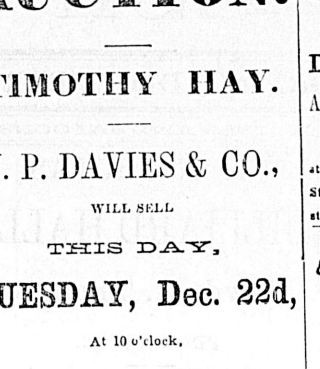
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J. P. DAVIES & CO., will sell at the store on Queen street, French Silks, Dresses, Cloaks, also Silverware and Jewellery, Knives and Forks, Tea and Coffee Sets, one Unique 8-day Watch, Pins, also Fancy Goods, Pianos, etc.

DAN'L SCOTT will sell, at 11 o'clock, a m., at their Auction Rooms, Port street, near Wharf, Furniture, Groceries and Provisions, etc.

NANAIMO SHIPPING NEWS.—The ship Rosedale on the 15th was loaded and had sailed out. The bk Frances Palmer in harbor proceeding to load.

FROM NANAIMO.—The ship Spruce arrived yesterday from Nanaimo with a cargo of coal to J. T. Little.

TRANSACTIONS AT STOCK EXCHANGE BOARD.

Skagde, 2 Shares, at \$74.50. Skagde, 10 Shares, at \$75. Skagde, 10 Shares, at \$75. Skagde, 10 Shares, at \$75.

IMPORTS.

Per P. P. GIBSON, 32 m ft lumber to McMillan Value—\$480.

Per WING RACER, 300 bushels oats, 100 do wheat, 200 do corn, 200 do chickens, 2 live hogs, 1 egg. Value—\$207.

ENTERED.

Dec 21—Slip Northern Light, Mountfort, Port Angeles.

Slip Winged Racer, Rider, Port Angeles.

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HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

MONDAY, Dec. 21, 1893.

House met at 3:45 p. m. Members present, Messrs. Young, DeComos, Ridge, Powell, Foster, Burnaby, Duncan, Dennis, Carwell.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

The Speaker read a communication from the Legislative Council of the Province of British Columbia, in relation to the bill for the purpose of amending the act relating to the performance of labor and the non-payment of composition under the Road Act, 1860.

NON-PERFORMANCE OF LABOR.

Mr. Ridge gave notice that he would introduce the following bill:—

A bill entitled "A Bill to provide an indemnity for the Mayor and Councilors of the City of Victoria."

Whereas certain acts have been expressed as to the validity of certain acts of the Mayor and Council of the City of Victoria with regard to the laying of certain moneys and licenses, and the receipt and collection of the same by the same Mayor and Councilors and their officers.

It is therefore enacted by the Governor on His Majesty's behalf, by and with the consent of the Legislative Council and Assembly of Vancouver Island and its dependencies as follows:—

That no person or body politic shall at any time hereafter commence, institute, or prosecute any action or suit or take any legal proceedings against the said Mayor, Councilors or any officer of the Municipality of the City of Victoria in respect of any act, matter and thing heretofore done in anywise connected with any demand, receipt or payment of any money or moneys whatsoever or any license or licenses or any other matter or thing by or under the authority of any law heretofore passed by the said Mayor and Councilors.

2. Short Title.—This act may be cited as the Mayor and Councilors' Indemnity Act, 1893.

The standing orders of the House were suspended, and the bill passed a first reading.

REDEMPTION OF DEBENTURES.

Mr. Young moved that the House go into Committee of the whole at next meeting to enable the Government to supply certain moneys for the redemption of the municipal debentures, and to legalize the collection of licenses and of assessments. Mr. Young stated that it was the firm intention of the Executive to sustain the Mayor and Council in all their acts.

Seconded by Mr. Ridge, and carried.

POSTPONEMENT.

Mr. Dennis asked leave to postpone his Small Debt Bill, also his Conveyancing Bill until after the holidays. Leave granted.

BANK NOTE BILL.

Mr. Duncan brought forward his bill to amend the unauthorised issue of Bank notes and paper currency. The hon. member showed the important functions performed by bank notes in the commercial world, particularly in the old country, and also the convenience and safety of a paper currency.

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Seconded by Mr. Ridge, and carried.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

The House went into Committee of the whole at 11 o'clock. The bill to incorporate the Victoria Chamber of Commerce was taken up and passed nem. con.

RELIEF OF JOHN COPLAND.

The bill to enable John Copland to practice as a Solicitor in the Law Courts of Vancouver Island was brought up.

Dr. McMillan moved that the hon. member be relieved of the bill, and that the bill be dropped.

Seconded by Mr. Ridge, and carried.

THE HOUSE TOOK UP THE MUNICIPAL INDEMNITY BILL.

The House took up the Municipal Indemnity Bill, passed the second reading, and went into Committee of the whole at 11 o'clock.

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CITY COUNCIL.

MONDAY, Dec. 21, 1893.

Present, His Worship the Mayor and a full Board.

The following communications were brought up:—

GRADING WHARF STREET.

From resident property holders praying the Council to grade and macadamise Wharf street from Port street to its junction with Pender street.

It was agreed that this portion of the City was in a very bad state and required attention, and the petition was referred to the street repairing Committee.

SIDEWALK.

From 28 residents, property holders on Store street, praying that a side-walk be laid down from the corner of Johnson to the corner of Constance street.

Referred to the City Inspector to ascertain whether the position was suitable for such a sidewalk, and to report thereon to the Council.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

The City Inspector reported as follows:—

1st. Crossings in Government street across Broughton street, and across the street near the corner of Johnson street, are in a very bad state of repair, and require to be repaired.

2nd. The side-walk on Broad street, and on Douglas street, are in a very bad state of repair, and require to be repaired.

3rd. The side-walk on Johnson street, and on Constance street, are in a very bad state of repair, and require to be repaired.

4th. The side-walk on Pender street, and on Johnson street, are in a very bad state of repair, and require to be repaired.

5th. The side-walk on Constance street, and on Johnson street, are in a very bad state of repair, and require to be repaired.

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CITY COUNCIL.

MONDAY, Dec. 21, 1893.

Present, His Worship the Mayor and a full Board.

The following communications were brought up:—

GRADING WHARF STREET.

From resident property holders praying the Council to grade and macadamise Wharf street from Port street to its junction with Pender street.

It was agreed that this portion of the City was in a very bad state and required attention, and the petition was referred to the street repairing Committee.

SIDEWALK.

From 28 residents, property holders on Store street, praying that a side-walk be laid down from the corner of Johnson to the corner of Constance street.

Referred to the City Inspector to ascertain whether the position was suitable for such a sidewalk, and to report thereon to the Council.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

The City Inspector reported as follows:—

1st. Crossings in Government street across Broughton street, and across the street near the corner of Johnson street, are in a very bad state of repair, and require to be repaired.

2nd. The side-walk on Broad street, and on Douglas street, are in a very bad state of repair, and require to be repaired.

3rd. The side-walk on Johnson street, and on Constance street, are in a very bad state of repair, and require to be repaired.

4th. The side-walk on Pender street, and on Johnson street, are in a very bad state of repair, and require to be repaired.

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